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### Good Government Problems. :-

#### IS LUXURY JUSTIFIED?

BY PROFESSOR RICHARD T. ELY.

[From his new volume, shortly to be published, "The Social Law of Service."]

When we come to expenditures for ostentation, we must draw a sharp line; they are absolutely interdicted by the law of mutual love. We cannot find any justification in ourselves for such expenditures. Any attempted justification, when analyzed, is found to involve ignorance of the real nature of our acts, or juggling with ourselves. Such expenditures are what we may call, properly, luxuries, and they are condemned, not only by wise political philosophers of all ages, but by the fathers of the church with singular unanimity. How can I claim that I love my brother as myself when I see him need the very necessities of life and expend money for that which contributes to no measure to my real well-being? The whole tone of the Bible, from beginning to end, condemns in the strongest terms anything of the kind. Not only this, but anything of the kind is condemned explicitly in the severest language over and over again, and it is an entire contradiction to the example which Christ set us in his own life.

It may be worth while to stop for a moment to consider one very lame justification which people frequently use as a salve to conscience in their attempted evasion of social responsibility. It is said that luxury gives employment. Louis XIV, one of the most extravagant kings of France, said: "When a king makes great outlays he gives alms." A newspaper writer, speaking of certain extravagant social events which occurred a few years since, used these words: "Murmurs against luxury may be heard among people in straitened circumstances when the lavish expenditures and sumptuous pleasures of great society entertainments are discussed. But such persons are prone to forget that these expenditures that seem so prodigal go in large part to benefit the working people. We cannot consider now all the economic fallacies involved in arguments of this kind. They have been exposed over and over again by able men. It may, however, simply be pointed out that the same expenditure made in behalf of others would give equal employment to labor. Let us take the case of a man who contributes a million dollars for a public building and contrast it with the case of a man who spends a million dollars on his own private house. Labor has equal employment in both cases, but the benefit of the bill accrues to the public in the one case, and in the other to the selfish enjoyment of an individual.

Another comparison: Contrast the expenditure of \$10,000 for an evening's entertainment with an expenditure of \$10,000 for books for a public library. Labor is alike employed in both cases, but in the second case the enjoyment is more widely diffused and is of a far more enduring character. This attempted justification is precisely on a line with that which people advance for the maintenance of gambling dens and the support of the traffic in intoxicating beverages. As the author writes, there lies before him a long description of a vast brewery; emphasis is laid upon the large employment which it gives to labor both directly and indirectly. Mention is made of the hop raisers in various parts of the country, and to the growers of barley. The article closes with the statement that every keg of beer sold by this New York brewery helps to buy pianos for our farmers' wives and daughters. The late Professor Cairnes, an able and conservative political economist, uses these words concerning the abundant resources of the rich: "Political economy furnishes much evidence of unmitigated selfishness."

The wealth accumulated by their ancestors, on others, on their behalf, when it is employed as capital, no doubt helps to sustain industry. But what they consume in luxury and idleness is not capital, and helps to sustain nothing but their own unprofitable lives. By all means they must have their rents and interest, as it is written in the land, but let them take their proper place as drones in the hive, gorging at a feast to which they have contributed nothing. The whole of this will not apply to the industrious rich, but what has been said condemns likewise their luxury which is contrary to the doctrine of stewardship, and violates the law of mutual love.

#### BIMETALLISM.

RICHARD P. BLAND'S ARGUMENT FOR FREE COINAGE.

The Bank of France, which is practically a government institution, and stands related to the Treasury of France in this respect as our Treasury does to our currency system, puts out gold or silver at the option of the bank and at the convenience of the bank, and not at the option or demand of the note holder, and yet all the money of France is maintained at a parity. But we are confronted with the argument that this country of ours of forty-four States, with Territories, of over 70,000,000 of people, with debts more than \$70,000,000,000 of wealth, with a productive power as great as France, Germany and England combined, or nearly so, is not able to maintain the unlimited use of gold and silver; that we should wait for the assistance of the world to establish a standard of value, and to do that we could be compelled to contract the volume of money.

The coming battle—the battle of the standard—in all probability will be one of the most momentous in our history. That ultimately the people will restore silver to its ancient place in our monetary system there can be no doubt, unless we doubt the intelligence and patriotism of our people, unless we doubt the perpetuity of our civil institutions.

A TRUE FISH STORY

Don't Read If You Are Not Prepared to Believe It.

Give every one fair warning that this is a fish story. More than that, it is a story of a fish who was a man, a man prepared to believe, may stop right here, for this is a true story, and to do that would be to question the veracity of one of Elizabethtown's best citizens, a man held high in the esteem of his fellows, and whose word is good. That is the story as he told it to the reporter:

Some years ago he was employed in the engineering office of the branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Newark, N. J. He came in with a fish which he had caught with legs. Of course he was laughed at, but bid him time to prove his story. On Sunday he presented to the Elizabethtown fishing club a ten-mile tramp across country to the point where he had fished, but was refused admission to the club because he had not fished in the snowshoes.

A MARRIAGE MISTAKE.

N. K. FAIRBANK, the Chicago millionaire, who was recently mulcted to the tune of \$16,000 in the New York courts by David Belasco, the playwright, is an eminently dignified and respectable looking old gentleman, with white whiskers and a mien of cold reserve. He is known in Chicago as a most successful businessman, a cool and daring operator:

The trip was made, and in the course of a few hours a dozen or more trout were caught. As the Ellsworth man stooped to pick up his fish he noticed something peculiar about one of them that was breathing his last. In union with the fisherman something having the appearance of a leg was stretched out from the fish's body. He called to his companion to see what manner of fish he had caught, but that individual calmly remarked: "Oh, that's one of those trout which legs you are telling me about. They're often found in this pond."

Examination showed that the fish had six legs—three on each side—which folded so closely to the body as to be hardly noticeable except on close inspection. But they were legs sure enough. The pond where these remarkable fish were caught is situated on Saddleback mountain, a small pool, not more than a foot across, in a hollow, and has no outlet. It is said that there is a similar pond on Mount Katahdin where the six-legged trout are caught. The fish caught by the Ellsworth man were exhibited at Bangor. He will not say that the trout may still be caught. Possibly they have taken to the land and walked off.—Ellsworth (Me.) American.

But in all this argument touching the free coinage of silver the most potent one is that gold is wholly inadequate as a monetary supply; but in all the history of the world both gold and silver were required, and even when both were in full use, as money there was not a sufficiency, but beyond the use of the two metals most nations had to supplement the metals with paper issues based upon them.

As bimetallists, we are demanding the full use of both metal, the dollar, silver or gold, shall constitute the basis for redemption fund to measure the amount and value of our currency, and ultimately to measure the amount and value of all properties and the extent and activity of our people in productive enterprises, for money, in one sense, is but a tool with which the laborer works, or to be used in his employment. If the tools of work are limited and contracted in supply, so must the work of the labor be limited and contracted. And again the tool of trade. If the tool of trade is to be limited and contracted, so must trade itself be curtailed and hampered. Again, it is a medium of exchange. If that medium is to be destroyed or contracted, so must trade be destroyed and contracted. Again, it is a means of liquidating debts. If the thing with which debt is to be paid is destroyed or contracted, so the power to pay debt will be destroyed or contracted, resulting in bankruptcy and ruin to debtors. Nature has set its seal of limitation upon the product of gold and silver, hence the impossibility, at least the improbability, of any over-supply of the thing to constitute our money volume. Never in the history of the world has there been an over-supply of these two metals.

Never in the history of the world has there been a sufficient supply of these two metals to maintain and support prices. In all ages and at the present time, some nations have not been able to procure a sufficiency of either of these two metals. They have been compelled to resort to the devices of paper issues and other forms of money, and all of them to whom are compelled to resort to substitutes to a greater or less degree.

Qualifications Needed For Consultation. Anybody who is at all familiar with the duties of an American consul, especially who has been in Europe, will know that the department of state and what he is called upon to do by the public, will require that he should neither be the product nor the victim of capricious political partiality. He should be appointed upon his merits after careful examination, and retained upon the same basis. There should be a career for the consul. There should be reward for merit, and he should suffer for incompetency.

Primarily the consul should be a gentleman, meaning thereby an honorable and educated man, familiar with the amenities and graces of good society. The next and absolutely necessary requirement should be an intelligent knowledge of the language of the post to which he is sent. He should be a professor of German or French or Spanish or Italian, but he should be able to speak and write intelligently the language of the country to which he is commissioned.—Scribner's.

#### PEOPLE OF THE DAY.

John P. ALGOLD, who has been re-nominated by the Democrats of Illinois for governor, is a man whose official acts have been more widely commented upon, perhaps, than those of the chief executive of any other state in the Union. By parading the Chicago politicians and by disputing the right of the presi-

dent to nominate him, he has won

himself a wide popularity.

Many persons have wondered what

eventually becomes of the tens of thousands of miscellaneous articles annually plodged in the hundreds of pawnshops of this city and unredeemed. A pawnbroker who has made a fortune out of this business, but who, nevertheless, finds something to complain of, thus thinks light ought to be shed upon it.

"The pawnshop's business is not

what it once was, and at the present

time it is very slow. Goods pledged are not redeemed as often as in years past

and these goods must be sold at auction

at the expiration of a year if they are

not redeemed. We always allow on

jewelry what we think the goods would

bring if purchased at auction, but if

it happens we are obliged to buy them

in. I have known of jewelry being sold

at one of these auction sales which did

not realize even the amount loaned,

and, of course, the interest was entirely lost. As for clothes, I have had the un-fortunate experience of selling what

represented advances of \$500 and realizing only \$200.

Two hundred dollars lost in this way, not

mention the interest earned for one year,

is very heavy. These auction sales take

place on the Bowery and the clothes are

bought by dealers in Baxter street. The

jewelry goes into first class hands.

All of the large Fifth avenue houses, where

antiques are sold, and reputable jewelers

have regular auction sales.

A M. O'CALLAGHAN.

The numbers of plants most of them legitimate, which have been devised to fulfil the nimble dollar from the pockets

of devotees of the wheel probably ran

up well into the thousands. Every one

is familiar with the workings of the

associations which for a small annual payment give the members a chance to

bid for a moment to it may have

been given for a moment it is not

for the fear of being considered provincial.

For that reason alone they are al-

lowed to continue despite the evident

lack of refinement and good taste. For

instances:

An exhibition of neither limbs—nor

human, but dummies—in a Broadway shop, was a failure, and the women who paid by owing to the different class of honesty committed

on them, but from the men who stop

and look at what they regard as un-

usual sight are heard criticisms not al-

ways polite. Then, again, there is on

upper Broadway a store for sale of

surgical instruments, bandages, all

kindred articles, and things which are

of service to physicians and dentists.

They are given away to those who

want to learn how to use them.

The Popular Bandanna.

A writer who is well posted in such

articles declares that there was a

time when the bandanna was so popu-

lar an article of dress, and apart

from its present vogue for women's

wear new uses for the material have

been discovered. Men's underwear, to

become plaid and gayly colored, and the

last word in smart underclothing is the colored bandanna. Socks and handkerchiefs for men are now seen in

all the shops that import what is new

in men's dress. These bandannas

come from England, which started sev-

eral years ago the fashion of gayly

colored linen neckties, which has spread

now from those who make it a point to

take such new things first to those

who buy them after their popularity is

established.

Of course, bandanna pyjamas have

also arrived, and the oriental silk

scarf is now worn with the colored

cotton goods the reputation of being

what is best and most popular in men's under